

Message Text

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ACTION CPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SS-20 A-01 OPR-02 SCI-06 PA-04

PRS-01 NSC-10 RSC-01 DRC-01 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1816

UNCLAS CARACAS 9896

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FOR: USIA ILA FOR ALBRIGHT; IOP FOR BOURGIN

USIA PASS NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER; AND U.S. GEOLOGIC SURVEY

SUBJECT: ASTRONAUT HARRISON SCHMITT

REF: CARACAS 9444

1. NOVEMBER 14-18 VISIT ASTRONAUT GEOLOGIST JACK SCHMITT UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. IN PERIOD OF BUT TWO WORK DAYS SCHMITT DELIVERED TALKS TO 600 FELLOW SCIENTISTS AT II LATIN AMERICAN GEOLOGY CONGRESS AND 400 GENERAL PUBLIC AT LOCAL OBSERVATORY, DID TWO ONE-HOUR TV INTERVIEWS, WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT LUNCHEON OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR, HELD WELL ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE, AND CALLED ON MINISTRY OF MINES.
 2. IN ALL ACTIVITIES SCHMITT GAVE OUSTANDING PERFORMANCE. INTELLIGENT, EXTREMELY ARTICULATE, SINCERE, LOW KEY; HE MADE TREMENDOUS IMPRESSION ON VENEZUELANS AND OTHER LATIN AMERICANS.
 3. HIS VISIT EXTREMELY USEFUL IN FULFILLING POST OBJECTIVES. SCHMITT TALKS NOT ONLY STRESSED AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SPACE RESEARCH. MOREOVER, HE CONSTANTLY HIGHLIGHTED SPECIFIC BENEFITS AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN WORLD'S TECHNOLOGICAL BASE
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RESULTING FROM APOLLO PROGRAM.

4. OTHER MEMBERS OF U.S. GEOLOGIC SURVEY DELEGATION, ESPECIALLY GEORGE ERICKSEN, ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AS "SCIENTIFIC AMBASSADORS."

5. SPECIAL THANKS TO AGENCY SCIENCE ADVISOR BOURGIN FOR HIS EFFORTS ON SHORT NOTICE IN ARRANGING SCHMITT VISIT.

6. FULL REPORT WITH CLIPPINGS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW.
HIGGINS

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